

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification by inserting on page 1, before the first line of the title the following:

-- TITLE OF THE INVENTION --

Please insert on page 1, before line 1, the following:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of International Application Serial No. PCT/NL99/00697 filed November 15, 1999, the entire disclosure of which is hereby incorporated by reference. Priority for this application is claimed based on NL 1010741 filed December 7, 1998.

STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT

Not applicable.

INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC

Not applicable.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to computing and specifically to displaying database contents. --

Please delete the paragraph on page 1, lines 1 to 13.

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, lines 14 to 25, with the following:

-- Description of Related Arts

Such a A method and device are disclosed in the article "Interactive Layout Mechanisms for Image Database Retrieval" by John MacCuish et al. dated Jan. 29, 1996, published in SPIE, vol. 2656, pp. 104-115. This article discloses an electronic database search engine, which uses a display unit showing objects from a database by means of icons or images in a two-dimensional plane. The mutual distance of the icons on the display area is a measure for the objects' dissimilarity. The electronic database search engine according to the article makes it possible by clicking on an image, to have the neighbouring images displayed on the display unit. --

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, lines 17 to 31, with the following:

-- The state of the art solves the problem searching on a subjective criterion) by having the user select search terms from lists (menu selection, or indicating linguistic search profiles. This works well if the user searches an already known element, and he or she is familiar with the name or the desired attributes. In many situations, such as when searching new elements based on "taste" or intuition, the effectiveness of these search profiles is inadequate. Often laborious verbal dialogues in specialist jargon have to take place in order to try and obtain examples from the collection on the display. The dialogue requires that the user have knowledge of the definitions for the attributes stored with the elements (for example in the case of music: the genre, price, and performers). It is the object of the invention to improve this. --

Please insert on page 2, before line 32 the following:

-- BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The invention relates to a method and an electronic database search engine for disclosing an electronic database comprising an electronic memory device suitable for storing and releasing elements from the database, a display unit, a user interface for selecting and displaying at least one element from the database on the display unit, and control means for controlling the user interface, which user interface allocates icons to the elements of the database, which icons are suitable for display on the display unit at mutual distances that depend on the elements' degree of dissimilarity, wherein the user interface at initial utilization displays at least some icons on the display unit.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIGURE 1 shows schematic of the display with several sample icons arranged with respect to function.

FIGURES 2 -3 show schematic displays with several icons and a user indicating a position on the display.

FIGURE 4 shows schematic display with several icons, after one icon is removed.

FIGURE 5 shows schematic display with several icons arranged with respect to function and style. --

Please replace the paragraph on page 2, line 32 through page 3, line 5, with the following:

-- DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

~~It is the object of the invention to improve this. To this end the~~ The electronic database device and method according to the invention are characterized in that with the control means any

arbitrary position can be selected on the display unit and in that, depending on the control means, the user interface displays or removes an icon that relates to an element of the database and of which the degree of dissimilarity, in respect of the elements whose corresponding icons are displayed elsewhere on the display unit, corresponds with the distance taken up by the selected position in relation to the icons displayed elsewhere on the display unit. --